

**From:** merker, Lorrie <lmerker@blueberries.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 2:10 PM  
**To:** Cath Petroskey  
**Cc:** Ensfield, Larry  
**Subject:** HB4438

*Attention: Cath Petros*

*Please pass this message to our Michigan House Ag Committee representatives*

Dear Michigan House Ag Committee:

MBG Marketing, a blueberry marketing cooperative based in Michigan and representing over 30% of Michigan's blueberry production, would like to express its support for the amended Michigan HB4438 introduced by Chairman Barrett and passed out of committee this morning allowing exemption to farmers from septic hauler licensure to transport portable toilets. With strict harvest rules and regulations promulgated and demanded by Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) for food safety, the federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), federal Worker Protection Standards (WPS) and various customer required third party food-safety audit standards regarding cleanliness and proximity of toilets to workers, it is imperative that growers are able to act quickly to clean and move toilet facilities as the harvest moves.

We are acutely aware of the concerns regarding hauling and transporting portable toilet facilities and those responsible always use utmost caution...remember, our farmers most often live and work on the same farm properties where these facilities are being moved about; they truly care about their environment. And our growers truly care about their workforce and the needs of their harvest crews. They want to keep clean toilets and handwashing facilities as accessible as possible to their workers. It's part of our social accountability standards to treat others as we would like to be treated; offering clean and accessible field facilities is basic to that requirement.

Thank you for supporting the amended HB4438 to amend 1994 PA 451, to offer our state's growers the ability to legally operate in compliance with FSMA, WPS, and other mandated health and welfare standards, to meet our customers' requirements, and above all, to accommodate the basic needs of our valued seasonal workforce.

Sincerely,

Lorrie Ford Merker  
VP – Grower Relations & Cooperative Affairs  
MBG Marketing  
PO Box 322  
Grand Junction, MI 49056  
[lmerker@blueberries.com](mailto:lmerker@blueberries.com)  
P: 269.434.8060